UPCOUNTY

Bringing the County Closer to You!

Marc Elrich, County Executive
Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
Linda Moore, UCAB Chair

December 13, 2019

Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, December 16   7:00pm
Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown

Topic: "Changes in Montgomery County Government"
Guest: Andrew Kleine , Chief Administrative Officer
Offices of the County Executive

All board and committee meetings are open to the public!

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8040 or email a request to catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

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Vision Zero Town Hall
Saturday, December 14   10:00am – 12:00pm
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville

Reserve your seat : bit.ly/visionzero-townhall

In 2019 there have been 11 deaths and 579 pedestrian and bicyclist incidents in Montgomery County. Share your ideas on how to address this issue.   *#EndTrafficViolence*

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Winter Registration Underway

Register for Montgomery County Recreation and Montgomery Parks winter classes and programs are underway**.** Peruse the Montgomery County Guide today.

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Transmission Facilities Coordinating Group to Hold Special Meeting
Wednesday, December 18   2:00pm
51 Monroe St., Suite 300, Rockville

The county's Transmission Facilities Coordination Group (TFCG) will commence a Special Meeting to review the application from First Energy to relocate their antennas to a Cellular on Wheels (COW) from the Damascus Tower that is scheduled to be demolished and rebuilt beginning January 2, 2020. The First Energy site is a temporary site that will be utilized while the Damascus Tower is being rebuilt as part of the Public Safety System Modernization.

If you have any questions please call Margie Williams, 240-777-3762.

Please click this link to view the application.

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Live Discussion with County Executive Marc Elrich
Thursday, January 9   1:00pm-2:00pm
via the Montgomery County website

You may submit questions before and during the online event at Live Discussion with County Executive Marc Elrich.

Questions and answers will be available online. For more information, call the Office of Public Information at 240-777-6507.

Submit Your Question

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Changes Coming to County's Community Grants Process

The Montgomery County Grants Program is in transition to a new application process. Fiscal Year 2021 Grant applications will be launched shortly and will include an extended deadline in January 2020.

The County Executive and County Council are considering sweeping changes to the County's Community Grants process, which last year distributed over $14 million in funding to local nonprofits. The Council's Health and Human Services and Government Operations Committees have held two joint meetings on the topic. See Office of Management and Budget Memo that explains some of the change options.

Following a Community Grants Dialogue in November, Nonprofit Montgomery, in partnership with the Office of Budget and Management and County Council Grants Office, hosted five focus groups to gain nonprofit input on potential changes to the Community Grants process. Fifty-two nonprofit leaders attended the focus groups, which were held in late November and early December.

Recommendations from the County Executive are forthcoming. In the meantime, the application process for funding in FY21 has been delayed. Nonprofit Montgomery will issue and Advocacy Alert as soon as changes are announced. Stay tuned!

County Grants Hotline: 240-777-7935

Please sign up today to receive grants email alerts.

Request a phone call, meeting or site visit with the Grants team.

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Holiday Schedule
Christmas, Tuesday – Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25
New Year's Day, Tuesday – Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

Montgomery County government will observe the following holiday schedule for the Christmas holiday on Tuesday – Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, and New Year's, Tuesday – Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan 1:

County Offices – closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Libraries – closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Dec. 24 and 31: branches close at 6 p.m.

Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) – stores closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Recreation – programs and facilities closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Montgomery Parks - visit www.MontgomeryParks.org.

Ride On – Dec. 24: Ride On operates from the route endpoints until 10 p.m.; runs starting from the endpoints after 10 p.m. will not operate. Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: Ride On operates on a Sunday schedule.
Ride On Flex – Dec. 24 and Dec. 31: Ride On Flex operates on normal operations.   Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: Ride On Flex has no operations.
Metrorail and Metrobus – visit www.wmata.com.

TRiPS Commuter Store (Silver Spring) – closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store – closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station – closes 3 at p.m. on Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25. Closes at 3 p.m. on Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1.

County-provided refuse/recycling pickup – County-provided trash and recycling collection is canceled Dec. 25. After the holiday, County-provided recycling and trash collections will slide by one day later than normal, with last collection on Saturday, Dec. 28.   County-provided trash and recycling collection is canceled Jan. 1. After the holiday, County-provided recycling and trash collections will slide one day later than normal, with the last collection on Saturday, Jan. 4.

Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – normal parking fees and regulations in effect on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Parking will be free on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

State offices and courts – closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

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See MDOT SHA District 3's Planned Major Lane Closures Update
CLICK HERE

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Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services Increases Enforcement Efforts During Holiday Season

Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services' (ABS) alcohol inspectors will increase concentrated efforts on alcohol law compliance at the County's nearly 1,100 licensed alcohol establishments during the holiday season to deter underage alcohol access and over service.

During compliance checks, youth under 21 work with inspectors and police, who conduct compliance checks jointly. The youth attempt to use their vertical identification to purchase alcohol at a licensed establishment. If a sale is made, an administrative violation against the liquor license is given and a criminal citation is issued to the individual seller. Reducing the availability of alcohol to underage users can help reduce crime and protect youth from the dangers of alcohol. Research shows the earlier young people start drinking, the more likely they will become alcohol dependent later in life.

Montgomery County police are coordinating a Holiday Task Force through Jan. 4. The program brings together officers from multiple jurisdictions in a coordinated effort to enforce impaired driving laws.

Additionally, SoberRide, a program offering free Lyft rides throughout the Washington metropolitan area during the holiday season, will be in full swing. The program launches on Sunday, Dec. 15, and runs nightly from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. through Jan. 1. Visit www.soberride.com for details.

For more information about ABS, visit its website. Follow ABS on Facebook and Twitter.

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FYI . . .

Police Chief Marcus Jones, a 34-year veteran of the Montgomery County Police Department, was formally sworn in as the County's new police chief on Nov. 8, in ceremonies at Gaithersburg High School. The appointment of Chief Jones was unanimously confirmed by the County Council on Nov. 5. Chief Jones was named as an assistant police chief in April 2018 after serving for four years as captain of the 3rd District station in Silver Spring. He has served as interim police chief since earlier this year. Chief Jones previously served as captain of the department's major crimes division, where he oversaw the homicide, robbery, cold case and fugitive sections. He has a business administration degree from the University of Maryland and has attended the FBI National Academy. Read more

The Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) has announced **Benjamin H. Wu** as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. Wu, the current Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the Maryland Department of Commerce, will take the helm of Montgomery County's public-private economic development organization starting on December 18, 2019. Wu has executive experience and is internationally recognized as a technology policy expert. A Montgomery County native, Wu has a deep connection to both MCEDC and the County. He has sat on the MCEDC board since its inception and has supported job growth and business development in Montgomery County over the past three decades in his federal and state positions. Read more

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Announcements from the County's Office of Procurement

December Open House
Wednesday, December 18   10:00am - 11:00am
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 180, Rockville

Guest speaker: Emmyrich M. Vicente, Vice President,
Business Relationship Manager
PNC GWA Supplier Diversity Liaison

Learn about the PNC Supplier Diversity program and find out about opportunities to grow your business!

*** No RSVP is required. ***
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NEW! Solicitation Tracker

The Office of Procurement launched an online tool to find the status of a solicitation from issuance to contract execution. This tool is available to the public and provides transparency to the solicitation process.
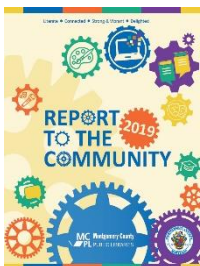Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tracker

Visit Procurement's webpage at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pro/ for Active LSBRP Solicitations, Local Small Business Reserve (LSBRP) opportunities, and other news.

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Montgomery County Public Libraries Releases 2019 "Report to the Community"

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has released its 2019 "Report to the Community"
The report offers an overview of the activities of MCPL for the past year, including a numerical breakdown of the millions of uses of MCPL services.
Other report highlights include:

- More than 26 million electronic and digital resources used to include Wi-Fi sessions, electronic data base use and eBooks and eAudiobook checkout;
- More than 1.3 million questions answered in person, by phone, through the website, email, chat, social media or by mail;
- Library branches offer more than 2.4 million free print and AV materials available for use in branches; and
- More than 324,000 program attendees.

- Watch YouTube Video Here.

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Council to Hold Public Hearing on Special Appropriation to Increase
School Community Health Nurse Positions
Tuesday, January 14 1:30pm
Council Office Building, 3rd floor Hearing Room
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville

The Montgomery County Council will hold a public hearing on the following Special Appropriation:

Special appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, DHHS - $164,279 to increase the number of School Community Health Nurse positions. Source: General Fund reserves.

The meeting will be televised live by County Cable Montgomery (CCM) on Xfinity channels 6 and 996, RCN channels 6 and 1056; and FiOS channel 30. It also will be available live via streaming through the Council website at http://tinyurl.com/z9982v8.

Call 240-777-7910 to obtain copies of the documents or go to https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/index.html

Those interested in testifying at the public hearing can start signing up on December 12 online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/phsignup.html or by calling 240-777-7803.

The deadline to sign up is January 13, 2020 at 5:00pm.

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Montgomery Council to Revise Plans for I-270 Life Sciences Corridor

This week, the Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to adopt an amendment to the Montgomery County Planning Department's work program to add a minor master plan amendment for the Great Seneca Science Corridor and accelerate the completion of the I-270 Corridor Transit Plan. The amendment aims to re-examine Stage 2 of the Science Corridor's staging plan in order to allow additional development that would spur growth in the County's biohealth sector. It further aims to reinvigorate the discussion around funding and constructing the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), which is a 15-mile, high-capacity bus rapid transit service system that would run between Shady Grove and Clarksburg.

The Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan, approved in 2010, set limits on how much development is allowed according to four stages. The minor master plan amendment would evaluate the staging elements of the plan. Currently, additional development in the master plan area cannot be approved until all four of the following Stage 2 triggers are met:

- relocating the Public Safety Training Academy;
- attaining a non-auto driver mode share (NADMS) of 18 percent;
- fully funding the construction of the Life Sciences Center (LSC) Loop Trail within the six-year capital improvements program; and
- fully funding construction of Phase I of the CCT (Shady Grove to Metropolitan Grove) within the six-year County or State capital improvements program.

The first two of these requirements have been met, and the LSC Loop Trail will fall will within the six-year window with the approval of the FY21-FY27 CIP in May of this fiscal year, as long as it is not delayed. The proposed changes would accelerate the planned I-270 Corridor Transit Plan to provide a transportation analysis, which would form the basis for the Planning Department to re-examine the staging requirements in the Great Seneca Science Corridor Plan.

Council will also ask the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to work with the Department of Finance, the Maryland Department of Transportation, businesses and potential developments along the CCT alignment between Shady Grove and Metropolitan Grove, to develop an implementation and financing plan for the CCT within the next 12-18 months. This financing plan is expected to include federal, state and local contributions.

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Montgomery County Green Bank—the Nation's First Local Green Bank—Celebrated Completion of Its Supported Major Energy Savings Project in Bethesda This Week

The Montgomery County Green Bank, a nonprofit created by the County as the first local green bank in the country and as one of only about a dozen green banks of any kind in the nation, joined several partners to celebrate the completion of a major energy savings project in Bethesda on Thursday. Read more at https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=23703

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https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census/

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For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:
County Council https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council
Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:
Department of Public Libraries http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library
Department of Recreation http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec
Department of Transportation http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html
Department of Environmental Protection http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep
Department of Permitting Services https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps
Montgomery County Volunteer Center http://www.montgomeryserves.org
Office of Community Partnerships https://montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships
Commission for Women https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw
Parks Department http://www.montgomeryparks.org/
Planning Department http://montgomeryplanning.org/
Department of Health and Human Services www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs